[Translation]

National Rail Museum, New Delhi

1446. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The improvement made in the National Rail Museum in Delhi and the amount spent thereon;

(b) whether there are still many deficiencies in the Rail Museum such as lack of adequate place, non-availability of old steam engines and various dresses of Drivers, Guards and attendants of different times;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove those deficiencies; and

(e) The time by which these deficiencies are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A number of improvements have been carried out in the Rail Museum during the current year. Mannequins of railway staff like drivers, guards, station masters etc., have been provided at various places in the museum. An interactive multimedia kiosk having software on the history of Indian railways, Indian Railways today, National Rail Museum and a quiz has also been provided in the indoor gallery for the visitors. Microprocessor controlled audio devices have been installed at 10 exhibits of the indoor gallery to provide audio description to the visiting public on pressing a button. Walkmans with a descriptive audio cassette about the outdoor exhibits has also been made available to enable visitors to have a self guided tour of the museum. The total cost of these improvements is around Rs. 5.4 lakhs.

(b) The Museum adequately depicts the 150 year old history of the Indian Railways. The space provided is adequate and the museum has a exhaustive collection of 39 old steam engines covering the period from 1855 to 1955. Typical uniforms of Railway staff like guards, drivers & station masters have been provided on the mannequins put on display.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Passenger Facilities

1447 SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide additional facilities/concessions to the passengers during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The existing rail travel concession of 50% of normal fares granted to Licensed Porters has been enhanced to 75% with effect from 1.8.96.

53 locations have been identified for provision of computerised reservation facilities in the country during the current year.

Provisions/augmentation of other passenger facilities is a continuous process and works are taken up on a regular basis at various stations throughout Indian Railways.

[English]

Black Marketing of Tickets

1448 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of black marketing in railway reservation tickets at Delhi, Mumbai and other important railway stations have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some instances of blackmarketing in railway reservation tickets at Delhi, Mumbai and other important stations by touts and other unscrupulous elements are being reported and also detected during the course of checks conducted by the railways.

(b) and (c) Railways conduct frequent checks in Reservation/Booking Offices at stations and in trains. Raids are also organised in the premises of unauthorised agents from time to time. The touts found indulging in malpractices are prosecuted under section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989. Disciplinary action is also taken against Railway staff who are found to be conniving in such activities. As a result of the 6744 preventive checks conducted by the Zonal Railways during the year 1995, 1532 touts were apprehended.

[Translation]

Crimes in U.P.

1449 SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request for conducting an inquiry in the continuously increasing crimes in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh has been received;